
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 6, 1896.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

The VICE-PRESIDENT presented the following

LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR, TRANSMITTING, IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC RESOLUTION NO. 17, ENTITLED "JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN SURVEYS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA," A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, DATED MAY 5, 1896, RELATIVE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BREAKWATER AT PALM BEACH, FLORIDA.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., May 6, 1896.

SIR: In answer to public resolution No. 17, entitled "Joint resolution providing for certain surveys in the State of Florida," approved February 26, 1896, I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from the Chief of Engineers, dated May 5, 1896, in which he expresses the opinion that the construction of a breakwater at Palm Beach, Florida, for the purpose of protecting and facilitating landing at the pier now constructed at that place, would cost about \$500,000.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH B. DOE,
Assistant Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, D. C., May 5, 1896.

SIR: Public resolution No. 17, entitled "Joint resolution providing for certain surveys in the State of Florida," approved February 26, 1896, provides as follows:

That the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, for a survey and plans for the improvement of the entrance to Biscayne Bay, Florida, as recommended by the Chief of Engineers in his letter of February twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, and for a survey and plans for the construction of a breakwater at Palm Beach, Florida; and the Secretary of War is directed to report the result of such surveys, together with plans and estimates for contemplated improvements, to Congress at the earliest practicable moment.

The work ordered by this resolution was assigned to Lieut. Col. W. H. H. Benyaurd, Corps of Engineers, and as detailed a survey as was possible, with the funds available and in the time granted, has been made, and as full consideration has been given to the matter of plans and estimates for a breakwater and dredging as the necessity for an immediate report has permitted.

Under date of May 1, 1896, Colonel Benyaurd presents a report upon his survey, with estimates of cost of breakwater and dredging proposed. The plans contemplate such a harbor of refuge as will accommodate deep-draft ships and fully provide for the commerce which it is expected might seek Palm Beach under certain conditions of trade.

The project proposed is an extensive one, and its estimated cost is very great. Time is needed for full consideration of the propriety and necessity of such extensive and expensive work, and I can not at the present time express any opinion as to the merits of the plans proposed.

An immediate report upon this subject is called for, and after a study of the map presented with the report of the survey, and such other data as are available, and on the assumption that the breakwater referred to in the resolution of Congress is such a structure as will protect and facilitate landing at the pier now constructed at Palm Beach, I am of the opinion that a breakwater which will protect this pier from northeast storms, and probably serve the special purpose indicated, can be constructed for about \$500,000.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. CRAIGHILL,
Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers.

Hon. DANIEL S. LAMONT,
Secretary of War.

○